

**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MINUTES**

November 23, 2015, 6:00 PM.

City Hall Assembly Chambers

Assembly Worksession - No Public Testimony

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Mary Becker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

Assemblymembers Present: Mary Becker, Karen Crane, Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones (teleconference), Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis and Debbie White.

Assemblymembers Absent: Kate Troll.

Staff present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Amy Mead, Municipal Attorney, Rob Steedle, Deputy City Manager; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Bryce Johnson, Chief, JPD; Kirk Duncan, Parks and Recreation Director; Julie Jackson, Aquatics Director; Rorie Watt, Engineering and Public Works Director.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 28, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the September 28, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved as corrected.

B. October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the October 26, 2015 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved as corrected.

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Aquatics Board Update

Mr. Mertz, Chair of the Aquatics Board, referred to the information he provided in the meeting packet. Also present from the Aquatics Board were Tom Rutecki, vice chair, Richie Dorrier and Greg Williams, co-chairs of the marketing committee; Joe Parrish and Beth Weldon. Pat Watt, chair of the governance committee, was unable to attend. Mr. Mertz was also the finance chair of the group. He said Phil Loseby from the School District would join group as JSD Liaison at the December meeting. The board has been meeting since July and has developed a punch list of goals. The over arching goal was to make the pool a good value for the patrons and the community, to increase use, use the facilities at the best level and increase revenue. Their mission statement was to get everyone into fun, well-managed and accessible pools, now and into the future. The board was working well together and with Kirk Duncan and Julie Jackson who was hired as the aquatics manager in July. Progress would take a combined effort of the board and staff. We all work hard, show up to the meetings and have been involved. Informal feedback from

pool patrons has been good. There is a new scholarship for lower income kids to use the pools and to learn to swim, from an annual commitment from a local family in support. The Juneau Youth Swim Scholarship program is the name of the new program. We are revamping the pricing policy for the pools. It will have a single pricing system for both pools. The pricing model is intended to reward loyalty, thereby increasing use. We have moved to an all day pass. We have been heavy on the single use pricing and we intend to change that. Seniors over 64 and youth age 8-18 pay less as well as children under 8. We are working on a marketing plan to explain the pricing and provide reasons for people to come use the pool. He thanked the Assembly for his appointment to the board.

Ms. White asked if the annual or monthly pass will work in both pools. Mr. Mertz said yes, it would be one pass for both pools, and eventually one thumbprint with a new system - it would be a biometric pass.

Mr. Nankervis was supportive of that idea. He said he was surprised that only 5% of the pool usage was over 65. Mr. Duncan said he was also surprised and he thought with the new point of sale system (POS) would show differently and he was suspect of the current statistics, but he wanted to provide them.

Mr. Nankervis asked about the scholarship program. Mr. Mertz said several thousand dollars have been committed and they were still working out the details.

Mr. Fisk said he was also surprised by the numbers as his experience was that many seniors used the pool. Mr. Duncan acknowledged that and in response said the new rates would take effect on January 4.

Mr. Kiehl asked about the pricing structure. He thought dropping the annual and monthly passes would take a big growth in use to break even and if that would be new users that made sense, but what do you expect to see? Mr. Mertz said they did modeling and it did not take a lot of extra long term passes to make up for the daily use pass. We are incentivizing people to buy a more expensive pass and reduce their total daily use cost. This is a model that has been employed successfully locally at the private clubs. People get used to paying a monthly or annual amount and they get used to keeping that in their budget.

Mayor Fisk said the senior pass was already a good bargain and the proposed rate was exceptionally good. Most people were probably anticipating increases. Do we need to steel ourselves for incorrect numbers? What marketing activities do you intend to look at?

Mr. Duncan said word of mouth was the best that could be done in Juneau, they will be using social media, radio and said they need to be creators, rather than fillers, of demand rather so they will be out in the community promoting use of the pools. Mr. Mertz said that they were trying to open the doors to people using the pools, as they had lost users since the opening of the new pool. It was possible that we will need to increase prices in the future but we need to get people in to become regular users again.

B. Juneau Police Department - Update

Chief Bryce Johnson said he was present to answer questions about "use of force." He provided statistics and said there were 39 uses of force in 2014 out of 1000 arrests, so less than 2.8% of the cases used force to effectuate an arrest. We have documented contacts with 49,000 people in those situations. JPD was a little below the national average. He said the statistics were in the JPD annual report, and he showed a specific slide of Use of Force statistics 2010 to 2014. So far this year there had been 29 incidents documenting use of force. There has been a switch between using hands and using a taser. The taser reduces injury to officers.

Regarding reporting requirements for when JPD uses force, JPD defines force as something more than soft hands in a control hold. When an officer uses force they are required to write it in a report

with significant documentation. In addition there is a "use of force report," which details the reasons why it was used and all the other situation details. The supervisor will review to ensure it is within policy, another supervisor reviews, then the deputy chief reviews a third time. The police chief will perform a final review. He displayed a use of force chart and called it the early warning system that they can use to intervene if they see a pattern of use of force taking place. The officer's assignment has to be taken into consideration. The three officers that had the highest rate of use of force have all left for other positions in the past few years.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked Chief Johnson for the report and said the information was comforting due to the national issues. She asked if JPD got complaints about use of force. He said one or two per year, they had a policy for how to investigate the complaints. He gave an example of one case and the investigation and resolution. All cases are investigated thoroughly. If there is a suspected problem, an officer will be put on administrative leave during the investigation.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked about the use of body cameras. Chief Johnson said they were the future, JPD would get them eventually, there were issues to work out and they were expensive. There were privacy issues to be worked out by the court system. We have tested them in the past, recently and as soon as we get one that works for us we will recommend implementation and purchase them through a grant program but it will not be cheap. Anchorage airport, Kenai and Ketchikan use them. The troopers do not have them now. The smaller departments can implement them sooner due to the cost.

Ms. Crane asked about the staff view of body cameras. Chief Johnson said that after the incident in Ferguson, MO., most officers opinions had changed and they see it as protection for them.

Mr. Kiehl asked what type of training JPD gave regarding use of force and de-escalation. Chief Johnson said JPD gives more training hours than most jurisdiction, at about 86 hours a year. Firearms training is given five times a year with shoot and no shoot scenarios and annual training on pepper spray, baton and taser. They train frequently on de-escalation, and are doing more work with issues of the mentally ill in crisis intervention.

Ms. Crane asked about diversity in the ranks. Chief Johnson said there was diversity training every year, and JPD would be implementing Arbinger training, which included diversity. We have done a good job recruiting female officers and are over the 11% national average, but in other demographics not as well. We tried a recruiting company without luck. He had struggled to get Alaska Natives to apply and those we have are ready for retirement. We are posting videos on our Facebook page and hope to recruit for our next testing period. We are not getting the applications.

Mr. Nankervis said JPD historically has been authorized to use force far more times than they ever used force. The other side of this is that we could lose officers from that, but this department is very cognizant of this and tries to keep hands off. What gets lost in the message nationally is how many times officers are hurt.

Chief Johnson said it was correct for police officers everywhere. He was an officer in another jurisdiction for 20 years and he was very surprised how long JPD officers talk before they resort to hands on. He said that the local officers told him that it is a product of living in close quarters and having to be a part of the community. There are three standards for use of force - the legal standard, JPD's standard which is higher, and the personal standard that was even higher yet. It does put officers at a higher risk. He felt that was true of most every officer he has met.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked Chief Johnson for his explanation. Ms. Becker thanked him for his presentation.

C. Valley Transit Site Evaluation

Mr. Watt said in late September at the COW the Assembly discussed obtaining a parcel of land at the Mendenhall Mall for a valley transit center. He said the transit center could have many features,

it would include a transfer location, a place for bus drivers to take a break (restrooms / eat). There is land at the skate park but he does not feel it is a good location and he listed a number of reasons in a memo, including comments from the public, the turn from Egan drive constrains entry and exit, and if we are trying to get riders to join the system through a park and ride, we have to think like those drivers. The zoning is not the best, it is D-5 and better suited to housing. He encouraged the Assembly to the Mendenhall Mall for a place to give drivers a break, and as a transfer point, not so much as a park and ride. Currently the Nugget Mall restrooms have been used but that is not ideal. The more northerly the transfer points, the better for the route times. Mendenhall Mall is ideal for the current route systems and offers flexibility. It works for current routes and potential future routes.

Ms. White said she spoke to several transit users and she said not one person was in favor of the skate park location.

Ms. Gladyszewski said she was really interested in park and ride and asked if there was any possibility of that with the mall. Mr. Watt said there was some room - about 15 spaces, and possibly more with a fill project and a corps permit. Mr. Watt spoke about enhanced commuter service vs. Park and Ride. He has his lead drivers working on this issue and he said he was not sure about the efficacy of park and ride. Park and ride requires people to warm up the car, drive a short distance and find a parking spot at the park and ride locations. He spoke about the regularity of Route 3 and 4 in the valley. It is not great for a park and ride. The churches on loop road are good locations, but you have to think about driver/rider behavior. He did not think a lot of people could be attracted to park and ride to route 3 & 4, and then transfer to the express bus. By the University / Auke Bay harbor - those may be good locations to board the express bus. He said the feedback on the Riverside Express has been good, not negative, and it still needed to be broken in. There was not an early morning bus on this route. There is an early valley commuter bus and it was an express to downtown. If the goal is to reduce single occupancy cars, the goal is to make sure that cars never leave the driveway. He has asked the drivers to figure out a way to get 30-40 cars off the street downtown centered on this valley commuter route. He will propose a small increment to the commuter service of \$200,000 to be absorbed within current budget to try this as a way to work on the parking demand downtown.

Ms. Crane said that park and ride worked when there were no transfers involved. Mr. Watt said the valley commuter is an express to downtown. Ms. Crane said she would look at this idea, but she liked park and ride with a fifteen minute increment without an express service. Mr. Watt agreed, as a component at the Mendenhall Mall or Auke Bay, could be successful. In trying to find efficient routing, everyone wants to go one way, but we try not to send the bus empty the other way.

Mr. Kiehl said he was not clear about why a transfer was needed if a person parked at the church. It would be a new route - similar to the valley commuter route. Mr. Watt said he thought there would be more riders if the bus went closer to their door rather than to a short drive to their house. Mr. Kiehl said it was debatable. He appreciated the communication with the drivers. He asked if there was a safe place to walk to and from the mall to the valley transit site. Mr. Watt said it depended upon where the person started walking from - there was not a lot of appetite to take over Mall Road but the mall owners have expressed opposition to changing traffic patterns there. Mr. Kiehl said that Vintage Park had sidewalks and a grocery store and that might be a better place to base buses.

Mayor Fisk said he did not know the cost or opposition to taking over Mall Road and he would like to see that explored due to the continued problems. Why is the mall not recruiting CBJ to bring buses to their doors - why the lack of interest?

Mr. Watt said first and second hand information was that both owner groups did not think that buses brought shoppers and that the good did not outweigh the bad. Nugget Mall would be happy if CBJ left.

Mr. Watt said there is a route in the morning called the valley express which drives the loop, and we could pursue park and ride and tell people to get on that bus. If the goal is to get cars off the road, we will be more successful to get them to leave them in the driveway.

Mayor Fisk said the valley commuter was a worthwhile experiment. He asked about the churches interest. Mr. Watt said there would be churches that would work with CBJ on issues about park and ride. He wants to bring back a proposal without too many moving parts because Capital Transit was on a tight schedule.

Ms. Crane said she would like to see CBJ pursue negotiations with the Mendenhall Mall for the property for a valley transit center. Mayor Fisk if there were any other locations that might be better.

Ms. White said concerns were security at a transit center and storage for bicycles, and if there was a way to have arrivals of buses by 8 am at the UAS campus, that would make a difference.

Ms. Crane said she saw the mall lot as a transit center, not a park and ride center. This is one of the busiest stops on any of the routes, consistently, all day long. Yes there are negatives, but the positives outweigh the negatives.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked about the efficacy of having two separate functions in different locations - ie transit center separate from park and ride.

Mr. Watt said it was not a far shot from using the Dimond Park site as park and ride with the dual use of ball field parking and the same could happen at Auke Bay for commuters.

Mr. Watt asked for the Assembly to move away from the skate park location and to look into purchase of the mall property.

MOTION, by Crane, to not pursue the Pipeline Park as a Valley Transit Center Location. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

MOTION, by Crane, to direct staff to pursue negotiations with the mall owners for property to use as a transit center and to work on a funding proposal for purchase of the property. Mr. Kiehl and Ms. Gladziszewski objected.

Mr. Kiehl said his primary concern was the ability for people to get safely to and from the site. With this location, the only safe location to access was the gas station. He thought that it might feel unsafe in the evening due to the layout and it was not a property that CBJ should be purchase. Ms. Gladziszewski said she wanted some analysis of park and ride first, because this was a topic of discussion for many years in the community. The lot was not of the size needed.

Mayor Fisk said the general location was good, but he was not ready to buy that specific lot. He would like to pursue negotiations with the mall, but didn't want to waste time.

Mr. Watt disagreed with the concern about the issues noted. The current state of the property was not good, but there would be a new shelter with lighting vs. standing in mall road like this heavily used site is used now. He spoke about how drivers took breaks now. Lost in the discussion was that at the peak hour, the buses are mostly full, so if we promote park and ride, our existing customers will have trouble getting on the bus. We want the end product, and to get that we need to add service and make it easy for people. Regarding what we need to do first, we need an anchor to develop the route system. It took four difficult years to get the current change.

Mayor Fisk said he would be happy with this if the safety concerns could be addressed for foot traffic in the mall area and asked about design concepts. Mr. Watt said he would forward those to the Mayor and Assembly. The waiting area would be at the front of the property, the turn would be at the back.

Ms. White asked if there were any parking spaces in the current plan and Mr. Watt said yes. Filling the pond could provide more eventually. Ms. White said she thought this type of installation made sense to make more smaller park and ride areas, rather than one large one.

Roll call:

Aye: Becker, Crane, Jones, Gladziszewski, Nankervis, White, Fisk

Nay: Kiehl

Motion passed, 7 ayes, 1 nay.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Submitted by Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk